

## CLAIMS

The invention is claimed as follows:

1. A gaming device comprising:
  - 5 a plurality of selection groups;
  - a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups;
  - a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections, wherein at least one selection of each of the different selection groups has one of said advances associated with said selection;
  - 10 a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to a player;
  - an advance award adapted to be provided to the player if:
    - (a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated advance,
    - (b) said advance causes the pick of one of the selections associated
    - 15 with a subsequent one of the selection groups, and
    - (c) another one of the advances is associated with said selection caused to be picked by the advance; and
    - a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and advance award.
- 20 2. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein if the player picks one of the selections associated with one of the advances, said pick does not count against the number of picks.
- 25 3. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes links between selections of two selection groups, wherein each selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the
- 30 second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection group.

4. The gaming device of Claim 3, wherein the display device is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of the two selection groups.
- 5 5. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with of a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.
- 10 6. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.
- 15 7. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein said award is adapted to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.
- 20 8. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.
- 25 9. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.
- 30 10. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

11. The gaming device of Claim 1, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections  
5 caused to be picked by the advance.

12. The gaming device of Claim 1, wherein the number of picks is reset upon picking one of the selections having an associated advance.

10 13. A gaming device comprising:  
a plurality of selection groups;  
a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups;  
a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections,  
wherein at least one selection of each of the different selection groups has one  
15 of said advances associated with said selection;  
a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to  
a player;  
an award adapted to be provided to the player if:  
(a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated  
20 advance,  
(b) said advance causes the pick of one of the selections  
associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups, and  
(c) another one of the advances is associated with said picked  
selection caused to be picked by the advance, and at least one pick is  
25 remaining; and  
a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and  
award.

14. The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein if the player picks one of the  
30 selections associated with one of the advances, said pick does not count  
against the number of picks.

15. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes links between selections of two selection groups, wherein each selection associated with a first one of the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the  
5 selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection group.

16. The gaming device of Claim 15, wherein the display device is adapted  
10 to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of the two selection groups.

17. The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with of a plurality of the selections in at least one of  
15 the selection groups.

18. The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.  
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19. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein said award is adapted to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.  
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20. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.  
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21. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

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22. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

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23. The gaming device of Claim 13, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

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24. The gaming device of Claim 13, wherein the number of picks is reset upon picking one of the selections having an associated advance.

25. A gaming device comprising:  
a plurality of selection groups;  
a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups;  
a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections,  
5 wherein at least one selection of each of the different selection groups has one  
of said advances associated with said selection;  
a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to  
a player;  
an award adapted to be provided to the player if for each of two picks by  
10 the player:  
(a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated  
advance,  
(b) said advance causes the pick of one of the selections  
associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups, and  
15 (c) another one of the advances is associated with said selection  
caused to be picked by the advance;  
and  
a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and  
award.  
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26. The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein if the player picks one of the  
selections associated with one of the advances, said pick does not count  
against the number of picks.
- 25 27. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes links between selections  
of two selection groups, wherein each selection associated with a first one of  
the selection groups is linked to one of the second selections from a second  
one of the selection groups, and any advance associated with any one of the  
selections of the first selection group causes the pick of the selection in the  
30 second selection group which is linked to said selection in the first selection  
group.

28. The gaming device of Claim 27, wherein the display device is adapted to display the selection groups in alignment to show the links between selections of the two selection groups.

5 29. The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein a plurality of the advances are adapted to be associated with of a plurality of the selections in at least one of the selection groups.

10 30. The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein the selection groups are arranged in an order and a percentage of advances associated with the selections decreases for each subsequent selection group.

15 31. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes at least one award associated with one of the selections of one of the groups, wherein said award is adapted to be provided to the player if the player picks said selection or an advance causes the pick of said selection.

20 32. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of one of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

25 33. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, one of said awards associated with one of the selections of each of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

30 34. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards associated with a plurality of the selections of the groups, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections caused to be picked by the advance.

35. The gaming device of Claim 25, which includes a plurality of awards, wherein each selection not having an associated advance has one of said awards associated with said selection, wherein the player is provided each award associated with the selections picked by the player and the selections  
5 caused to be picked by the advance.

36. The gaming device of Claim 25, wherein the number of picks is reset upon picking a selection having an associated advance symbol.

10 37. A gaming device comprising:  
a plurality of selection groups;  
a plurality of selections in each of said selection groups;  
a plurality of advances adapted to be associated with the selections,  
wherein at least one selection of each of the different selection groups has one  
15 of said advances associated with said selection;  
a number of picks from the selection groups adapted to be provided to  
a player;  
an advance award adapted to be provided to the player if:  
(a) the player picks one of the selections with an associated advance,  
20 (b) said advance causes the pick of one of the selections associated  
with a subsequent one of the selection groups,  
(c) a second one of the advances is associated with said selection  
caused to be picked by the advance;  
(d) said second advance causes the pick of one of the selections  
25 associated with a subsequent one of the selection groups or the advance  
award; and  
a display device adapted to display the selection groups, advances and  
advance award.



38. A gaming device comprising:  
a plurality of first selections;  
a first advance associated with one of the first selections;  
a plurality of second selections, wherein each of the first selections is  
5 individually associated with one of the second selections;  
an advance award adapted to be provided to a player if the first  
selection picked generates the first advance and a second advance is  
generated by the second selection associated with the picked first selection  
and provided via the first advance; and  
10 a display device operable to display said first selections, first advance,  
second selections, second advance and advance award.

39. The gaming device of Claims 38, which includes at least one award  
associated with one of the first selections.

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40. The gaming device of Claim 38, wherein the associations between the  
first selections and second selections are displayed by the display device as  
an alignment of the first and second selections.

20 41. A method of operating a gaming device including a wagering game,  
said method comprising:

(a) enabling a player to pick from a first selection group until the  
player picks a first advancement;

(b) if the first advancement does not generate a second  
25 advancement in a second selection group, enabling the player to pick from the  
second selection group until the player picks the second advancement in the  
second selection group; and

(c) providing an advance award to the player for advancing through  
each of the groups if a number of picks used to advance through the groups is  
30 less than or equal to a provided number of picks.

42. The method of Claim 41, which includes providing a separate number of picks for the first and second selection groups.
- 5 43. The method of Claim 41, which includes requiring at least one pick to use to receive the award.
- 10 44. The method of Claim 41, which includes, upon the picking of first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.
- 15 45. The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is related to the selection in the first group that yielded the first advancement.
- 20 46. The method of Claim 44, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is randomly chosen upon picking the first advancement.
- 25 47. The method of Claim 41, which includes not counting a pick in the second group that yields the second advancement if the pick is a result of a pick of the first advancement in the first group.
48. The method of Claim 41, which includes providing steps (a) to (c) via a data network or a computer storage device.
49. The method of Claim 48, wherein the data network includes an internet.

50. A method of operating a gaming device, said method comprising:
- (a) enabling a player to pick from a first selection group until the player picks a first advancement;
  - (b) if the first advancement does not generate a second advancement in a second selection group, enabling the player to pick from the second selection group until the player picks the second advancement; and
  - (c) providing an advance award to the player for advancing through the groups within a specification number of player picks, wherein a second advancement is obtained without counting against the number of picks if it is generated directly after the first advancement is generated.
51. The method of Claim 50, which includes, upon picking the first advancement, automatically revealing one of the selections in the second group, wherein the automatically revealed selection can yield the second advancement.
52. The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is related to the selection in the first group that yielded the first advancement.
53. The method of Claim 51, wherein the automatically revealed selection in the second group is randomly indicated by the first advancement.
54. The method of Claim 50, which includes providing steps (a) to (c) via a data network or a computer storage device.
55. The method of Claim 54, wherein the data network includes an internet.